

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORNITHOLOGY OF THE PAPUAN ISLANDS.

BY THE HON. WALTER ROTHSCHILD AND ERNST HARTERT.

(The work of these "contributions" is so divided that Walter Rothschild works out the families *Paradisoidae*, *Ptilonorhynchidae*, and *Rallidae*, while E. Hartert alone is responsible for the rest.)

I.

LIST OF THREE SMALL COLLECTIONS FROM BRITISH NEW GUINEA, MOSTLY BROUGHT TOGETHER IN THE OWEN STANLEY MOUNTAINS.

(Plate I.)

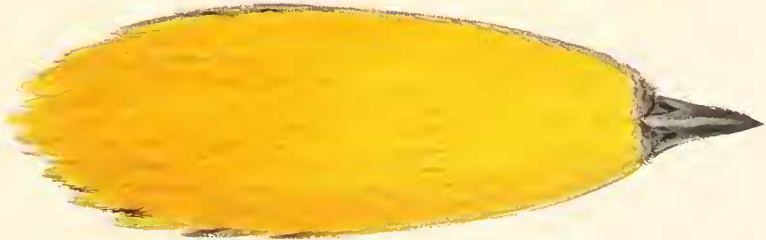
ONE of these collections was made by our collector Anthony in the *Mailu District* during the months of July and August; another in the *Eafa District* between Mounts Alexander and Bellamy, in elevations of from 5000 to 6000 feet, in October; and the third consisted of some skins from high elevations in the *Victoria District*, which were purchased in London.

Anthony left Port Moresby for the first trip on June 12th, 1895, and reached Mailu after a very long and bad passage in a small boat. He started inland on July 6th, marched about twenty-five miles through broken country towards Mount Dayman, formed a camp, and collected for two weeks. He then made another march of about twenty-five miles, and collected ten days. A third march of about ten miles brought him to the foot of the mountains, where he stopped five days, but found birds very scarce, while insects were more abundant. He then ascended the top of the range, where he collected three days with very little success in birds. He wished to descend on the other side and to collect on the north-eastern slopes, but the report of the murder of the Clarke Expedition so frightened the natives that they would not proceed. He therefore followed the range in a south-easterly direction and collected another three weeks, in very bad weather, rain pouring almost every day, while the hills were continually enveloped in fog. After these three weeks he proceeded to Orangery Bay, where he reached the coast again in a place about twenty-five miles to the east from where he started inland, and collected a short time near the coast. Port Moresby was reached again early in September. All the birds were collected in July and August, some having exact dates, others not. All the birds from the second trip were collected in October, inland from Port Moresby, in what is called the Eafa district, between Mounts Alexander and Bellamy, in heights of about 5000 to 6000 feet. The collector says he could have reached higher elevations if his natives had not refused, but they declared they could not bear the cold, and the hill-tribes seemed not to know what to make of the party, as their district had not been visited before by strangers. Besides he seems to consider the time of the year unfavourable for shooting, and it rained "night and day."

No particulars could be obtained with regard to the few skins bought in London, but there were some very good things among them.

Craspedophora intercedens Sharpe, *Journ. Linn. Soc.* XVI. p. 444 (1882).

A series of *males* from Mailu and Eafa districts. The breast-shield varies in certain lights from metallic green to blue. The wings are 183—191 mm. long; the bill very constant, varying in length only about 3 mm.



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This species is at once distinguishable from *C. magnifica* of North-Western New Guinea by the base of the culmen being entirely hidden by the frontal feathers, which unite on each side, as properly remarked by Sharpe in his new *Monograph of the Paradiseidae*. The bill is also a little shorter, the breast-shield of a less metallic gloss, but these differences are trifling. Birds from German New Guinea (Constantinshafen, Simbang, and the Finisterre Mountains) are entirely similar to those from British New Guinea.

W. R.

Drepanornis albertisii cervinicauda Sel., *P. Z. S.* 1883, p. 578.

Two *females* shot on July 19th and 21st, 1895, near Orangery Bay, and a good series of both sexes from the Eafa district. The iris is given as brown, feet grey, bill black. Dr. Selater most appropriately called this bird, when he first named it, a subspecies, and bestowed upon it a trinomial. As such it must stand, the only obvious differences between the *male* of it and the Arfak bird being the lighter rump and tail; and the colour of the latter is by no means absolutely constant, neither in the darker nor in the paler species, though the former is always recognisable. The differences stated to exist in the colour of the crown and on the tips of the side-plumes are minute, and not quite constant in a large series. A constant difference in the length and thickness of the bill seems not to exist. The *female* of the Arfak bird is darker and more rufous above. All this seems not to indicate more than a well-marked subspecies.

W. R.

Epimachus meyeri Finsch.

Both sexes from the Eafa and Victoria districts.

Astrarchia stephaniae Finsch.

Both sexes of this magnificent bird from the Eafa and Victoria districts. The *females* do not differ in structure from those of *Astrapia nigra*, but only in colour. The genus, therefore, is hardly of much value.

W. R.

Paradisornis rudolphi Finsch & Meyer.

Both sexes of this glorious bird from the Eafa district and Mount Victoria. In October *males* were in full plumage, while others had their long tail-feathers not developed and a *female* was in full moult.

W. R.

Paradisea raggiana Sel., *P. Z. S.* 1873, pp. 559, 697.

A fine series of adult *males* from the Mailu district, all very constant in colour, except that in two specimens the straw-yellow colour of the hind-neck extends much less down towards the back than usual. All are in full nuptial plumage, except one which has only short side-plumes and one which has none at all. The wing is mostly about 185 mm. long, the shortest being 183 and 181 mm. long, while a few have longer wings, *i.e.* 187, 190, and one even 194.

W. R.

Cicinnurus regius (Linn.).

A large series of *males* and *females* from Mailu. *Female*: "Eye brown, feet pale blue, beak yellow."

I have now before me in the Tring Museum many specimens of *Cicinnurus regius*, about thirty of them with exact localities, from Mailu and Nicra in

British New Guinea, Simbang and Constantinhafen in German New Guinea, from Arfak, Salwatti, Mysol, and Aru Island, and I find that they are very constant on the whole, and have the forehead and the feathers on the bill light orange, quite different from the rest of the upperside. The specimens from Jobi Island differ obviously in having the short feathers on the bill produced farther towards the tip, thus leaving a smaller piece of the bill unfeathered, in having these feathers a little longer, much darker, and of the same colour as the back. These characters can be seen at a glance, and certainly are important enough to establish a subspecies upon. As there is a slight variation in the colour and extension of these parts, we may fairly expect that intermediate forms will occur, and therefore had better call the Jobi form a subspecies only, although my specimens are so obviously different. Salvadori was the first to notice the differences of Jobi specimens (*Ornitologia Papuasia* II, p. 650), and his seven specimens were evidently alike. A. B. Meyer (*Zeitschr. f. ges. Ornithol.* III, p. 36, 1886) also recognises the same characters as being peculiar to the Jobi Island specimens, and states that a Kafu skin showed the same peculiarity, but had a very yellowish red tail. Guillemard (*P. Z. S.* 1886, p. 656) also describes the Jobi bird as differing from the others, but the size of the supraocular spot and the violet tinge of the throat vary, and are therefore of no consequence. For the Jobi bird I propose the name of

***Ciccinnurus regius coccineifrons* Rothsch., subsp. nov.**

I may also mention that the one Aru skin I have is large, the wing longer than in any of my other specimens, the nasal plumes rather short and yellowish. Guillemard (*P. Z. S.* 1886, p. 656) mentions the same character, and therefore I should very much like to compare a series of specimens from Aru. W. R.

***Diphyllodes hunsteini* Meyer.**

A *male* in moult and two *females* from the Eafa district, which seem to belong to *D. hunsteini* Meyer. W. R.

***Parotia lawesi* Rams.**

Of this excellent species I have received a large series from the Eafa district. The most important character to distinguish it from *P. serpennis* seems to me the



white frontal plumes on the top of the bill, extending right to the front. Between the two rows of white nasal plumes is a long upright crest of black feathers with a

strong brown gloss, not hitherto recognised in any figure of this bird, and laid back in most of the skins seen by me, but standing up as in the accompanying figure in some of my new skins; and this is evidently its proper position, though the bird may be able to lay it back sometimes.

W. R.

Lophorina minor Rams.

A fine series from the Eafa district, shot at elevations of about 5000 to 6000 feet. The *males* have the wing from 124 to 136, but mostly about 130—132, mm. in length, the tails from 89 to 100. The adult *female* has the wing about 112—118, mostly about 115. The young *male* is entirely similar to the *female* in colour, but can be distinguished by its longer wing. The black feathers of the adult *male* begin to show at an early age in large patches above and below, and some black remiges and rectrices appear irregularly, but the feathers of the brilliant green breast-shield and the velvety mantle-plumes evidently come later.

This species was first described as *L. superba minor*, but it must evidently stand as a good species. The *male* can be distinguished at a glance by the very conspicuous black centres to the upper feathers of the breast-shield. Besides this, the wing is shorter, the longest of the mantle-plumes are broader at their tips, and there are some more differences, as pointed out by Ramsay and Meyer (cf. *Zeitschr. f. ges. Ornith.* II. p. 376, Pl. XVII.; III. p. 180; *Ibis*, 1886, p. 244, etc.). The *female* differs entirely from that of *L. superba* in the colour of the upperside, and in having a broad superciliary line of whitish spots running towards the occiput.

W. R.

Phonygama purpureoviolacea Meyer.

Three skins from the Eafa district, October 1895, 5000—6000 feet. "Iris red, feet and bill black." This is the finest of the known species of *Phonygama*. It inhabits the mountains of British New Guinea, while *Ph. hounsteini* Sharpe (= *Ph. thomsoni* Tristr.) lives in the D'Entrecasteaux Group. *Ph. gouldi* in Queensland, and *Ph. keraudreni* is said to occur all over New Guinea and the Aru Islands! I am much in want of good specimens of the last two species, with exact localities and dates.

The *male* is apparently larger than the *female*.

W. R.

Manucodia atra (Less.).

Mailu district; several specimens of both sexes.

The *males* are considerably larger than the *females*.

W. R.

Chlamydodera cerviniventris Gould.

Mailu; both sexes.

"Eye grey, feet brown, bill black." The *male* seems to be distinctly larger than the *female*.

W. R.

Aeluroedus melanocephalus Ramsay.

Typical skins from Mailu and Victoria districts.

Amblyornis inornata (Schleg.).

A. macgregoriae de Vis.

A. musgravianus Goodwin

I am sorry to say that I cannot any longer distinguish between *A. inornata* and *A. macgregoriae* (or *A. musgravianus*, as one may call it, both names being published in 1890).

For a long time, from 1871 to 1894, no specimen of *Amblyornis inornata* with a crest was known, though Bruijn's hunters, D'Albertis, and others had brought many *females* and *males* out of the Arfak region. In 1884 Sharpe described the totally distinct *A. subularis*, also from a *female* (or young *male*), without any sign of a crest, but soon afterwards Finch & Meyer made us acquainted with the beautifully crested *male*. In 1890 the names of *A. macgregoriae* and *A. musgravianus* were given to crested *males* from the mountains of British New Guinea, but no specimens of that form reached Europe until this year. As late as 1894 a crested *male* of *A. inornata* was first made known by Meyer, and I have since acquired seven. Quite lately came, among some birds sent for sale to London from the Victoria district, two *males* which fully agreed with the description of *A. macgregoriae* (that of *A. musgravianus* being very incomplete and in general terms). They were very much like the Arfak birds, but the crest decidedly shorter, and the whole bird rather small. Comparing my specimen (the other is in the British Museum) with the series of *A. inornata* from Dutch New Guinea, I soon anticipated that they would probably be not more than subspecies. I was, therefore, not a little surprised when in the last collection from the Eafa district I found a beautiful *male*, with a crest fully as long as any of those from Arfak, and not different in size! I now give the measurements of the crested *males* at present in my collection in millimètres:—

	CREST.	WING.	TAIL.	TARSUS.
1. ♂ ad. Arfak Region	95	137	96	35
2. ♂ ad. Arfak Region	95	142	97	35
3. ♂ ad. Arfak Region	94	136	95	35
4. ♂ ad. Arfak Region	96	136	None.	36
5. ♂ apparently adult. Arfak Region	Not fully developed.	135	95	36
6. ♂ ad. Northern Coast of Dutch New Guinea (Arfak)	86	140	96	35
7. ♂ ad. Northern Coast of Dutch New Guinea (Arfak)	90	142	91	36
8. ♂ ad. Mt. Victoria, Owen Stanley Mountains	85	132	90	34
9. ♂ ad. Eafa District, between Mts. Alexander and Bellamy, 5-6000 feet. October 1895	95	137	93	35

On the upperside is no remarkable difference in colour between any of these, but beneath Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 are somewhat more rufous, and No. 7 is exactly between these and the paler ones, which are Nos. 3, 8, 9.

One more reason not to attach great importance to the length of crest in this *Amblyornis* is that it is not constant in *A. subularis*.

Crestless specimens from Arfak (Bruijn coll.) have mostly shorter wings, and these are apparently *females*, while some, evidently young *males*, have the wings as

long as the crested *males*. The very different descriptions of the "bowers" of the two supposed species are rather puzzling at present, and we should try to learn more about it, but if the birds cannot be distinguished our present knowledge of the differences in their bowers cannot constitute their distinctness. W. R.

Amblyornis subalaris Sharpe.

A series of beautiful *males* and *females* from Eafa and Victoria districts. The crest is 60 to 65 mm. long, but in one 70. In some skins it is pointed to a sharp angle, but in others not. This is apparently due to preparation. The *females* have the wing a little shorter.

The plate illustrates the differences of the three recognised species: *A. inornata*, *A. subalaris*, and *A. flavifrons* (see Nov. Zool. II. p. 480). W. R.

Loria mariae (de Vis).

One *female* from the Eafa district; on the label: "Eye grey-black, feet greenish, bill black." This bird entirely agrees with the descriptions of *Cnemophilus mariae* ♀ and *Loria lorise* Salvadori, but, as it has no wattles at the angle of the mouth, it would properly belong to *L. mariae* (de Vis). I, however, have a *male* from the Arfak region which exactly agrees with the *male* of De Vis's species, only the metallic sheen on the inner secondaries is slightly more greenish. In view of this wide distribution, which is the same as that of *Amblyornis inornata*, I cannot at present believe that *Loria lorise* and *Loria mariae* are really two different species. W. R.

Oriolus striatus Quoy & Gaim.

Three skins from Mailu. Iris dark red, bill red, feet bluish.

Mino dumonti Less.

♀ ad. One skin from Mailu. "Eye, feet, beak yellow." Wing 143 mm.

Calornis metallica (Temm.).

♀ ad. Mailu. Iris red. Wing 104 mm.

Paramythia montium de Vis.

Mount Victoria; one perfect skin, not sexed. Another in the British Museum. Sclater has given an admirable figure by Keulemans in the *Ibis* of this marvellous bird. He there proposed, under reserve, to create a new family *Paramythidae* for this bird, chiefly for the reasons that the covering of the tarsus differed from that of the *Sturnidae* (under which family it was classed by its first describer) and that it seemed to him (judging from an imperfect wing) that there was no first primary, or, better said, that it had only nine primaries. It is true that the tarsus, with the exception of its lowest part, is covered by an unbroken lamina, while it is covered throughout with a number of very distinct scales in the *Sturnidae*, and the tarsus and toes are very slender in comparison with those of the *Sturnidae*. On the wing, however, I find that the first primary is *not quite absent*, though very much reduced. It is stiff and narrow, about 8 or 9 mm. long, and certainly not "functionary" as a flight-feather. Nevertheless it is there, and the difference between it and the first (or tenth, as it is called by some authors) primary of *Sturnus vulgaris*, where it is about 15 mm. long, is less than that between *Sturnus vulgaris* and *Lamprocolius*

phoeniceopterus, where it is about 32 mm. long, though both the latter are recognised as *Sturaidae*. How uncertain the length of the first primary as a family character is, may be seen by comparing it, for example, in *Pholidauges verreauxi* (14 mm.), *Calornis metallica* (14 mm.), *Streptocitta torquata* (19 mm.), *Acridotheres tristis* (25 mm.), *Gracula robusta* (40 mm.), *Gracula javanica* (31 mm.), *Mino dumonti* (30 mm.), *Basilornis* (25 mm.), and others, as well as comparing different species and genera of *Alaudidae*. I was rather surprised to find that in the so-called nine-quilled (or rather, nine-primaried!) *Passeres* the tenth primary is not always, nay, not even as a rule, and very likely never, entirely absent, but only much reduced, and often difficult to find, because stiff and narrow and hidden by its longer covert. From these reduced little feathers to those of *Pholidauges*, *Sturaxis*, or *Calornis* is no longer step than from the latter to *Acridotheres*, *Basilornis*, and *Gracula*. However wide the gap between total absence and development of an organ may be considered, it is wholly unscientific to use its presence in a diminutive size as a character to separate large groups, such as families, when we see that in the groups which we recognised it varies as wide as the difference is between its size in the families where it was called "absent" and the smallest in the families where it was called "present." I am very sorry that these facts exist, because they take from us an apparently very convenient character to split up into groups a number of the many "Passerine birds," which, in spite of the many clever attempts to classify them, will long remain a crux of ornithologists. Finally, I am bound to mention (and this should and will be known to ornithologists) that what I saw is no new discovery, but has long before been laid before the Zoological Society of London in an important paper entitled "Remarks on the Numbers and on the Phylogenetic Development of the Remiges of Birds," by Hans Gadow. See *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 1888, p. 655.

The creation of the family of *Paramythidae* may be justified for other reasons, but the minute size of the first primary cannot be taken as an important reason for it. The measurements of our specimen are: wing 103 mm., tail 105, tarsus 30, entire culmen 20. E. H.

Rhectes nigrescens Schleg.

A *female* from the Eafa district differs from a *female* from Arfak in a decidedly longer bill. As Meyer (*Zeitschr. f. ges. Ornith.* III, p. 21) mentions some slight differences between *males* from the two different localities, it is quite possible that they are not the same, but more material is necessary to decide finally. E. H.

Pomareopsis bruijni (Salvad.).

1875, *Grallina bruijni* Salvad., *Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova* VII, p. 929; id., *Orn. Papuaia* II, p. 191

Sharpe, *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* III, p. 273; id., in Gould's *B. New Guinea* III, pl. 13.

1880, *Pomareopsis semiatra* Oust., *Bull. Ass. Sci. de France* p. 173.

1894, *Synmorphyus nigripictus* de Vis, *Report on New Guinea 1894, Rep. on Ornith. Specim.* p. 4, No. 44.

I believe that the three synonyms quoted here really belong to the same species. The description and measurements of *Synmorphyus nigripictus* so closely agree with this species that I cannot help regarding it as synonymous for the present, though I hope to be enlightened on the subject by our fellow-worker Mr. de Vis, to whom we owe so much of our knowledge of birds from South-Eastern New Guinea.

The Tring Museum has it from the Mailu and Victoria districts. E. H.

Monachella mulleriana (Schleg.).

+. Mailu, July 19th, 1895. "Iris, feet, beak dark brown." Wing 96 mm.

Colluricincla megarhyncha (Quoy & Gaim.).

♂. Mailu, July 30th, 1895. "Iris deep brown, bill and feet dark grey." Wing 92 mm.

Melanocharis bicolor Rams.

♀. Mailu. "Iris grey, feet and beak brown." Wing 67 mm.

Pachycephala schlegeli obscurior Hartert subsp. nov.

The south-eastern representative form of the *Pachycephala schlegeli typica* from the Arfak region of New Guinea, of which two *males* are at hand for comparison with fifteen *males* from Arfak, differs only from the latter in having the abdomen of a deeper tawny orange, which colour seems also to be extended farther on towards the sides, in having a larger black chin-spot, and the white of the throat less in extent. We have it from the Eafa district from heights of 5000 to 6000 feet, and from the Victoria district Mr. de Vis has had specimens from 6000 to 8000 feet. Wing. 85 mm. E. H.

Myzomela rosenbergi Schleg.

Two from the Eafa district, not distinguishable from a large series from Arfak in the Tring Museum. E. H.

Ptilotis visi Hartert sp. nov.

Ptilotis, species *P. chrysotis* dictae similis, sed corpore supra et alis rufescentioribus, gutture pallidior, regione supra-auriculari pallidior facile distinguenda.

Hab. Nova Guinea meridionali.

This species has been mixed up with *P. filigera* Gould, from North Queensland, by Salvadori, Gadow (cf. *Ornith. Papuasie* II. p. 345; *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.* IX. p. 237), and others, but it is not typical *P. filigera* from Queensland (Cape York), from which it differs in being much darker above and below, the top of the head not being grey but greenish olive, the breast being washed with greenish olive, the white mark above the ear-coverts indistinct, if visible at all, the whitish grey spots on the nape smaller and sometimes quite absent. In fact *Ptilotis visi* is nearer to *P. chrysotis* of North-Western New Guinea, from which it differs in the quite different colour of the upper parts, which are strongly washed with rusty rufous, the paler chin and throat, the paler ear-coverts, the paler line above the ear-coverts (which is almost black in *P. chrysotis*), and generally in the presence of some greyish spots on the nape. The breast is also less greenish (though distinctly so), the wings more rufous outside and with much broader inner rufous margin. The type of *P. visi* is from the Mailu district, from where the Tring Museum has four beautiful skins; but we have also specimens *q, u, v, r, x* of Salvadori's list (*l.c.* p. 346), which I consider to belong to this species, as well as two skins from the Fly River which seem to belong to the same form, although the white mark above the ear-coverts is rather distinct and the region above it rather dark. They may be subspecifically distinct, but more material is required from that place to decide that question. We have also two skins from Wokan, Aru Islands, which are not *P. visi*, but nearer to *P. filigera*. They are, however, skinned after having been preserved in spirits of wine (see Salvadori, *l.c.* p. 346), and therefore not much weight can be attached to their

coloration, but they are certainly nearest to *P. filigera*, from which they will probably differ in some slight points only.

P. visi ♂ ad. (type): Bill black. Upperside greenish olive, strongly washed with rufous on the interscapulum, back, and rump, but strongest on the interscapulum. Remiges deep brown, outer webs narrowly bordered with rusty olive, inner webs broadly margined with rufous, specially towards the base. Wing-coverts rufous brown, margined with rusty rufous. Under wing-coverts light rufous. Rectrices deep brown, narrowly margined with olive on the outer webs, broadly bordered and tipped with rufous. Under the eye a short whitish line. Ear-coverts greyish, bordered above with an often indistinct line of whitish, below with a long golden-yellow line. Chin and throat pale brownish grey; rest of under surface rufous brown, with a greenish olive wash on the breast, and without any distinct spots. Nape generally with some pale greyish spots. Total length about 180 mm., *a.* 92—97, *c.* 80—85. Salvadori's Naiabui specimens have the wing mostly a little longer. Old skins are not so bright as our fresh ones.

It is not impossible, of course, that all these forms may one day, when a large material comes to hand, be regarded as subspecies only, but at present they must most decidedly be kept separate. I am obliged to Mr. Ogilvie Grant, who went over our birds with me in the British Museum, and who is likewise of the opinion that *Ptilotis filigera*, *P. chrysolis*, and *P. visi*, the last of which stands somewhat in the middle between the two others, are three different species.

I named the new form after Mr. de Vis, of the Queensland Museum, whose different articles on the collections made during Sir William Macgregor's expeditions have greatly enlarged our knowledge of the birds of British New Guinea. E. H.

Melirrhophetes belfordi de Vis.

♂. Eafa district, between Mount Alexander and Mount Bellamy, 5000 to 6000 feet, October 1895. "Eye brown, bill dark brown, feet grey." This specimen agrees well with the description of Mr. de Vis. E. H.

Melirrhophetes ochromelas batesi Sharpe.

One adult specimen from the Mailu Mountains. The *Melirrhophetes* from the mountains of British New Guinea was named *M. batesi* by Sharpe, but when he did so he did not have a specimen of *M. ochromelas* to compare, but had to go merely by the description of Meyer and Gould's figure of that species. Mr. Grant and I have compared the two forms, of which there are now specimens both at Tring and in the British Museum; and we did not find any other tangible difference than the colour of the stripe above and behind the bare space surrounding the eye and the tips of the upper ear-coverts. These are pale buff in *M. ochromelas* from Arfak, and rufous fawn-colour in *M. batesi*. Perhaps the breast and abdomen are also a shade darker in *M. ochromelas*, but it requires a series of fresh specimens to decide whether that has any constancy. It is very doubtful to me whether these slight differences will be found to be constant when some series from the countries between Arfak and the Owen Stanley Mountains come to hand, and the safest course seems to treat these forms as subspecies, thus recording the fact that the forms from the extreme points of their distribution are slightly different; while we may take it for granted that intermediate forms will be found. E. H.

Centropus menebeki Less. et Garn.

♂ ad. Mailu district, August 5th, 1895. "Iris pink." Wing 230 mm., tail 365.

Sauromarptis gaudichaud (Quoy & Gaim.).

Duculo gaudichaud Quoy & Gaim., *Voy. Aut. d. Monde Zool.* p. 112. Pl. XXV. (1824).

Mailu.

The name of this large kingfisher is *S. gaudichaud*, and not *S. gaudichaudi*, as spelt by modern ornithologists. Messrs. Quoy & Gaimard spelt it without an *i*, and there is no reason to alter their spelling.

No white on the back in our specimens from British New Guinea, but we have one from Aru and one from German New Guinea, collected by Kubary, which have also no white on the back. The blue in our bird from Constantinhafen (*S. kubaryi* Meyer, *Ibis*, 1890, p. 414) is in no way more whitish or silvery cobalt than in others, but its bill is larger than in any other specimen before me. *S. kubaryi* is certainly not a species, but it may possibly stand as a local subspecies. E. H.

Dasyptilus pesqueti (Less.).

Two specimens from Mailu. In comparing these skins and one from the Owen Stanley Mountains with one from Constantinhafen, German New Guinea (Kubary coll.), and sixteen from the Arfak region (Arfak, Dorey), I cannot find any constant differences. *Females* are smaller, but I cannot see that the red colour is less bright; it is, however, absent on the side of the occiput in one *female*. E. H.

Neopsittacus pullicauda Hartert sp. nov.

Speciei *Neopsittacus musschenbroeki* dictae similis, sed occipite nuchaque obscuriore, cauda supra obscuriore, infra virescente (nec ochraceo-flavo vel aurantio), brevior, distinguendus.

Hab. Owen Stanley Mountains (type from the Victoria district).

The *Neopsittacus* of the mountains of British New Guinea differs from *N. musschenbroeki* Schleg. from the Arfak Mountains in the hinder part of crown, occiput, and nape being dark green, with a very slight brownish red wash and some very faint yellowish streaks, while these parts are olive-brown with a strong orange shade and very distinct yellow shaft-stripes in *N. musschenbroeki*. The tail is a little shorter than in the latter, of a much darker green above and without an indication of orange tips, below dark brownish green instead of ochre-yellow or orange. It seems also that the red on the breast and middle of abdomen is much more extended, but this character varies with age. Mr. C. W. de Vis, in the *Report on Ornithological Specimens collected in British New Guinea of 1894*, mentions on p. 1 that he had specimens of a parrot collected on Mount Manaeao, at elevations of 5000 and 5650 feet, in April, which he "referred with diffidence to *N. musschenbroeki*," as he noticed some peculiarities, but the characters he mentions, viz. a yellow bill and the green of the outermost tail-feather being confined to the base of the outer web, are not clear. The bill in the skin before me is orange-yellow, and the extent of the deep red colour in the rectrices is the same as in *N. musschenbroeki*, where, however, it varies a little. Its total length is about 190 mm., the wing 102 mm., tail 86 mm., tarsus 12 mm. E. H.

Psittacella brehmi pallida Meyer.

A. B. Meyer in *Zeitschr. f. ges. Ornith.*, III. p. 3 (1886) described as a new species from some *females* from British New Guinea *Psittacella pallida*, because it differed from *females* of *P. brehmi* from Dutch New Guinea in being paler and washed with greyish on the throat and sides of the head and in having a shorter tail. Salvadori afterwards (cf. *Cat. B. Brit. Mus.*, XX. p. 499, 1891) declared that he had not been able to detect any difference between the supposed two species. We have now received three *males* from the Eafa district, and, comparing them with three *males* and four *females* from Arfak, I find that they differ from the latter in having the throat and sides of the head paler and with a slight greyish wash, and in being more yellowish green on the breast and abdomen, while the north-western birds are more grass-green. These characters are quite noticeable in the specimens before me, but as they are not quite constant they can hardly be considered to justify a *specific* separation, but they seem constant enough for a *subspecific* distinction. I may add that there is no great difference in the length of the tail or in size, though *P. b. pallida* is a little smaller as a rule. De Vis (*Report*, 1894) mentions some doubtful specimens which seem to belong to a third form, to judge from his remarks.

E. H.

Charmosyna stellae Meyer.

Males and *females* from the Eafa district and Mount Victoria.

Accipiter cirrhocephalus (Vieill.).

An evidently perfectly adult *male*, with the wing 185 mm. long, from Mailu.

Falco severus Horsf.

A fine skin from Mount Victoria. Some of the old feathers on the underside are paler, and have longitudinal black spots, which are probably the remainder of the immature plumage. The rectrices have a narrow rufous terminal border.

E. H.

Falco ernesti Sharpe.

A beautiful *male* (though marked *female* on the label by mistake) from the Eafa district, October 1895. "Iris brown, feet and cere yellow."

The Tring Museum has also a *female* from Arfak.

Reinwardtoenas reinwardti grisotincta Hartert subsp. nov.

Comparing specimens of *Reinwardtoenas reinwardti* from S.E. New Guinea, Kaiser-Wilhelmsland, Arfak, Waigiu, and the Moluccas, I find that the Moluccan birds are much more white on head, neck, and breast, and have more dark feathers on the wing-coverts, besides being a trifle smaller as a rule; while the birds from New Guinea have the head, neck, and breast of a much darker grey, more rufous on the wing-coverts, and are perhaps a little larger. Waigiu specimens stand somewhat between Moluccan and Papuan specimens in the darkness of the neck and breast, but belong rather to the latter. Of the New Guinea specimens it may be said that those from Arfak seem to be a little lighter than those from the Eastern and Southern parts of the island, where they are of the darkest grey. In any case, however, the

Moluccan bird is easily recognisable as being whiter, and it is therefore desirable to give the Papuan bird a subspecific name. I do not know the *R. minor* Schleg. from the island of Misori in the Geelvink Bay, but *R. browni* (Scl.) is a very distinct species. Count Salvadori, to whom we owe so much of our knowledge of the Papuan Islands, has already (see *Ornitol. Papuae*, III, p. 128) pointed out some differences between Moluccan and Papuan specimens, but gave no new name, as he did not consider such local forms important enough to give them a name. E. H.

Goura albertisii Salvad.

Two typical specimens from Mailu.

II.

NOTE ON TWO MORE SPECIMENS OF *ASTRAPIA SPLENDIDISSIMA*.

Since I described and figured this splendid bird in Vol. II. of this journal, I have received two more *males*, which are quite complete. The central rectrices are 185 and 210 mm. long, cream-colour with black tips for 70 and 81 mm., and only 1.5 inch (= 38 mm.) longer than the next pair. The wings of these specimens measure about 5.15 inches (= 130 mm.). W. R.

III.

ON THE FORMS OF *MACROPTERYX MYSTACEA*.

When arranging the Swifts in the Tring Museum I found two specimens, a *male* and a *female*, of *Macropteryx mystacea*, collected on the island of Guadalcanar by Mr. Woodford, and recorded by Grant in *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 1888, p. 194. They struck me at once by having a uniform grey underside, while *M. mystacea* from other localities have the middle of the abdomen white and a good deal of white on the lower tail-coverts. On further examination I found that the wings of the two Solomon Island specimens were about three-quarters of an inch, or about 20 mm., shorter. These differences, if the two specimens are compared with a number of New Guinea specimens of *M. mystacea*, are so obvious that I should not have hesitated to describe them as a species had I not found that both the length of the wing and the colour of the under parts vary to a certain extent in *M. mystacea*. So I find that the Moluccan specimens have the wings mostly shorter than those from New Guinea, and the extent of the white colour on the abdomen varies also. There are a skin from Buru and one from Ceram in the British Museum which have very little white on the belly only. Nevertheless the Guadalcanar birds are striking enough to deserve a subspecific name, and I propose for them that of

Macropteryx mystacea woodfordiana Hartert subsp. nov.

It differs from *M. mystacea typica* from New Guinea in the uniform grey under tail-coverts and abdomen (without white in the middle) and the shorter wing. It has the wings 8.21 inches (= 208 mm.) and 8.15 inches (= 206.5 mm.), the tails 7 and 7.5 (= 177.5 and 190 mm.). I think it is quite possible that the Moluccan birds will be separated subspecifically at one time or another, but at present I have not sufficient material to decide, and I find too much variation in size, while I can

see no differences in colour. The species was first described from New Guinea, and the Papuan form must therefore stand as *Macropteryx mystacea typica*. I have measured the following specimens from New Guinea and adjacent islands:—

						Wing.
1.	Mailu district, British New Guinea	...	...	...	...	9.0 inches.
2.	" " " " " "	...	...	...	...	9.1 "
3.	" " " " " "	...	...	...	...	9.2 "
4.	Kafu	...	...	...	...	9.4 "
5.	" " " " " "	...	...	...	...	8.95 "
6.	Andai, Dutch New Guinea	...	...	...	...	8.65 "
7.	Mansiman, Arfak...	...	...	...	...	8.9 "
8.	Arfak Mountains	...	...	...	...	8.8 "
9.	Owen Stanley Mountains	...	...	...	...	8.95 "
10.	Fly River	...	...	...	...	9.0 "
11.	Jobi Island	...	...	...	...	8.9 "
12.	Waigiu	...	...	...	...	9.2 "
13.	Port Moresby	...	...	...	...	9.15 "
14.	Aru Islands	...	...	...	...	9.18 "

The following from Duke of York and New Ireland:—

1.	Duke of York	...	...	...	...	8.75 "
2.	New Ireland	...	...	...	...	8.65 "

From the Moluccan Islands:—

1.	Halmahera	...	...	...	...	8.5 "
2.	Buru	...	...	...	...	8.6 "
3.	Amboina	...	...	...	...	8.6 "
4.	Buru	...	...	...	...	8.5 "
5.	Halmahera	...	...	...	...	8.6 "
6.	Buru	...	...	...	...	8.5 "
7.	"	...	...	...	...	8.68 "
8.	"	...	...	...	...	8.5 "
9.	Batjan	...	...	...	...	8.5 "
10.	Amboina	...	...	...	...	8.56 "
11.	"	...	...	...	...	8.4 "
12, 13.	"	...	...	...	...	8.8 "
14.	"	...	...	...	...	8.7 "
15.	"	...	...	...	...	8.0 "
16.	Ceram	...	...	...	...	8.8 "

E. H.